

BUDHA DAL PUBLIC SCHOOL PATIALA
FIRST TERM EXAMINATION (4 September 2025)
ENGLISH

Class - VIII (Set - B)

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

Reading (20 Marks)

Q1. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

(10×1=10)

Akbar and Birbal, the two historic legends are said to have shared a great bond and have left some incredible stories for the ages ahead of them to hear and learn from. The stories are not only amusing but carry a strong message and pose questions on society, routine, rituals and practices strongly.

Birbal was a really wise and intelligent man, people used to admire him for his character and rich knowledge he possessed regarding every field. Almost all the decisions of the reign were taken after consulting with him. He was one of the most important ministers and closest to Akbar. Birbal was just so very dear to Akbar, not just because of his skills but because of the way their bond had grown strong over the years.

During Emperor Akbar's reign, there was a poor man in Agra who was thought to bring bad luck. People believed that if anyone looked at his face in the morning, they would have a bad day.

"Get lost, you ugly fellow!" he would be cursed by one and all. "Hide your face before you kill someone with your evil eye!" The Emperor soon heard of this man's reputation and wanted to see him. The poor fellow, who had not harmed a single person in his life, was brought to Akbar.

Akbar took a look at him and asked him to be brought back in the evening. That particular day was especially full and tiring day for the Emperor and his courtiers.

So many matters had to be attended to, that Akbar even forgot to eat. By the end of the day, the emperor was exhausted. To make matters worse, Akbar was informed that his favourite child, little Prince Salim, had fallen ill.

Then the Emperor suddenly remembered that he had seen the face of the 'unlucky' man that morning. That was it. It was that man's entire fault, Akbar decided.

Akbar called his courtiers and told them that he was going to have the 'unlucky' man executed. All of them agreed immediately.

All except Birbal. Instead, Birbal let out a short laugh.

"What's the matter, Birbal?" asked the emperor, "You seem to find something funny!"

"Nothing, your Majesty", replied Birbal.

"You say this man brings bad luck because you had to go without food ever since you saw him this morning. Look at his luck. Yours was the first face he saw today and he has to die because of it."

Akbar immediately realised his folly and rewarded Birbal for his wisdom. The above story of a man with unlucky face is one such story where Birbal's quick wit and strong logical reasoning is showcased.

(i) Choose the correct alternative:

Q1. Why had the king not eaten his food?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| (a) He was very busy that day | (b) He had seen the face of the unlucky fellow |
| (c) He was not feeling well | (d) None of these |

Q2. Who was not well on that particular day?

- (a) King Akbar (b) the King's courtiers (c) Birbal (d) Prince Salim

Q3. Which of the following describes Birbal?

- (a) He was a famous merchant (b) He had lost his senses
(c) He was very poor (d) He possessed good logical thinking

Q4. Birbal laughed slightly when he heard that the poor man would be executed? State whether True or False.

Q5. The Emperor heard of the man's _____ and wanted to see him.

Q6. What was Akbar informed about his favourite child?

Q7. Why did Akbar decide to execute the poor man?

Q8. What is peculiar about the stories of Akbar and Birbal?

Q9. Find one word from the passage which means the same as unfortunate.

Q10. Find one word from the passage which means the opposite to 'hate/ ~~dislike~~' (para 2).

Q2. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

(10×1=10)

Being eco-friendly is in vogue. Whether on the ramp or at home, a large number of people are emphasizing the use of eco-friendly products, thereby doing their bit to protect the environment. "Eco-friendly products are those products that inflict minimal or no harm to the environment. Made of natural elements, these products are not only safe but also add an artistic dimension to one's home", explains C.K. Nair of Homestop.

The products are made of environment sensitive materials such as recycled wood, dead wood, recycled paper, bamboo, jute, natural fiber and natural or organic cotton. "Grasses like sabai grass and vetiver can be woven to make mats, screens, bags and baskets. Old textiles can be used to make recycled paper, which can be used for packaging, lampshades, notebooks and other stationery. Recycled plastic can be used for making containers and furniture, says "Minhazz Majumdar" of the Bamboo store. "Items like choppers, trivets, cutlery holder, spice box set, dry flower arrangements, rattan sea grass, water hyacinth baskets, cotton, linen, etc., can be made from recycled material," says Nair.

Though there's been a lot of awareness about using eco-friendly products, it is still not the first thing that people look for when buying things for their homes. Eco-friendly products not only stand out in their looks, their durability is also high. "The life cycle of these products can be up to fifty years", says Majumdar. "With people becoming conscious about the environment, eco-friendly products will soon be considered an important aspect [in home decor]," says Angeline Loiseau of Zolijns Designs. "And what's more, their prices may start from as low as Rs.150," says Nair.

There are many other benefits of using eco-friendly products; by using these products, you can help decrease pollution, the destruction of forests and other ecosystems, and the amount of waste sent to landfills. A simple and yet more effective way to live an eco-friendly life is to either take public transportation for your daily commuting needs, or try pooling in with your office colleagues to save fuel and reduce your carbon footprint.

In addition to this, eco-friendly products are better for your health, as they don't contain any harmful chemicals that can irritate the skin or eyes. Another benefit of using green products is the peace of mind that you're helping to make the planet a clean and safe place to live not only for your generation, but for generations to come!

Growing an eco-friendly community is getting easier. There are more and more community gardens, swap meets and farmer's markets that make it easier for an entire community to actively participate in eco-friendly activities.

In this ever-evolving world, it is time we think of being eco-friendly. Our intent should be not to harm the environment through our interactions.

Living with an intent, goes beyond an idea, rather goes on to actual practises that is needed to influence individuals and society to conduct themselves more responsibly.

Being Eco-friendly responsible means much more than conserving energy or separating our garbage for recycle. It is to bring a change in the way we live.

Promote and use eco-friendly products. Reduce air, water and noise pollution. These practices would improve the environment around us and human health too.

Q1. How long is the life cycle of eco-friendly products?

- (a) Upto 50 years (b) Upto 80 years (c) Upto 40 years (d) Upto 20 years

Q2. What out of the following are eco-friendly products made of?

- (a) plastic grocery bags (b) bottled water (c) bamboo (d) plastic straws

Q3. Some of the benefits of eco-friendly products are:

- (a) they stand out in looks (b) they are durable
(c) helps in decreasing pollution (d) all of the above

Q4. 'Eco-friendly products lead to destruction of forests and other eco systems and the waste sent to landfills.' State whether True or False.

Q5. Growing an eco-friendly _____ is getting easier.

Q6. What are eco-friendly products?

Q7. Why are eco-friendly products considered environment – friendly?

Q8. How are these products good for our health?

Q9. Find one word from the passage that means the same as 'popular/ fashionable.' (para 1)

Q10. Find the word opposite in meaning to 'soothe' (para 5)

SECTION B (WRITING)

Q3. You are the Secretary of the Environment Club of Aradhya Public School. Write a notice to invite students of Class IX to the Environmental Awareness Drive organized by the club on the 'World Environment Day' (4)

Q4. Write an article in about 100-120 words on "Can Computers Replace Books?" using given hints for school magazine. (6)

- great advancement in science and technology
- utility of downloading any material
- books easy to consult and offer a unique reading experience
- books advantageous in terms of focus
- play a significant role in cultural preservation.

OR

Write a descriptive paragraph in 150 words to describe a street child or a ragpicker beggar child you came across recently:

Hints:

- where you met the child
- how old he/ she was
- What was his/ her condition
- What you felt on seeing him/ her and what you decided to do.

Q5. A cousin of yours has been selected for an undergraduate course by a foreign university. Write a letter to congratulate him/ her for selection. Use the following hints: (6)

- say how you got to know about selection
- congratulate and tell how happy you and your family are
- enquire about the course
- invite him/ her to visit you before going

OR

Write a letter to the Principal of your school seeking permission to organize a sale of home baked items in the school using given hints:

- explain the purpose of bake sale
- mention how you plan to organize
- when and where the event will take place

SECTION C (Grammar)

Q6. There is an error in each of the following lines. Write the incorrect word and the correction in the space provided. (4)

	Incorrect	Correct
A telescope are a light bucket	a) _____	_____
they collects light from the object	b) _____	_____
in space using either a lens nor,	c) _____	_____
much usually, a mirror. The main	d) _____	_____
mirror reflect the light to a	e) _____	_____
smaller one, who brings the	f) _____	_____
light to a focus there an	g) _____	_____
image of the object is form	h) _____	_____

Q7. Do as directed:

(10)

1. In the _____ of stars, Sun is the brightest star. (Collective noun)
2. She wants _____ money to buy a new dress. (some/ any)
3. _____ you or she can help me out with this sum. (either/ neither)
4. _____ you bring that book here, please? (may/ can)
5. I enjoy studying about _____ (machine/ machines)
6. How long (work/ she) _____ in the garden? (Present perfect continuous)
7. He did not write to me for a year. (Change to passive)
8. _____ has to shoulder this responsibility. (someone/ anyone)
9. Open _____ books and turn to the first chapter (possessive objective)
10. The farmer _____ wheat last year (grew) (past perfect)

SECTION D (LITERATURE)

(4)

Q8. Answer the following questions with reference to context:

"You should call, 'Baby, where are you?
And I should laugh to myself and keep
Quiet quiet.
I should slyly open my petals
And watch you at your work".

1. Why will the mother call for the baby?
2. Identify the poetic device in the above lines and given an example.
3. What has the child become?
4. Name the poem.

(4)

Q9. Answer the following questions with reference to context:

Thanks, Irfan. Students I have sent you the link to the attendance sheet in the chat window. Please make sure you fill that in before the end of this class. In this session, we will talk about the way forward and familiarize with the new way of teaching – if anyone has a question, please raise your hand. I will unmute you'.

1. Why is the teacher taking the session?
2. What is the new way of teaching learning?
3. Why did the need for this new way of teaching learning arise?
4. What should the children do if they have a question?

Q10. Answer the following questions briefly : (Do any 4)

(3×4=12)

1. How does the poet describe the movement of the trains?
2. What activities would the parrot do after escaping Aunt Ruby's cage?
3. Write some precautions to be taken to stop the spread of Coronavirus.
4. List some observations made by the poet in the examination hall.
5. What does the mother do in the evening?

Q11. "Aunt Ruby buys a parrot with the expectation that it will talk, but when it doesn't, her attitude shifts from hopeful to hostile". In the light of the given statement draw a character sketch of Aunt Ruby.

OR

Mother in "The Champa Flower" is a source of comfort and security with regards to the given statement draw a character sketch of the mother. (5)

Q12. Imagine you are the scarecrow, write a diary entry expressing the observations made by you and the questions you have regarding the changing seasons and the awareness of the natural world. (The Morning Dew)

OR

The poem 'Dear Mr. Examiner' emphasizes on the importance of individual expression and also touches on the anxiety and stress one experiences when they feel unprepared. Do you agree that examination system should be based on emotional intelligence, creativity and social skills? Explain. (5)

B-5